

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/604,567

Examiner

Yubin Hung

Applicant(s)

LIN ET AL.

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 04/03/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Response to Amendment/Arguments

1. This action is in response to amendment filed 04/03/07, which has been entered.
2. Claims 18-20 have been added; none have been cancelled.
3. In view of Applicant's amendment, the objections to the specification and the drawings have been withdrawn.
4. Applicant's amendment has rendered moot the 35 USC § 103 rejections of claims 1, 3, 5-7 and 9.

Reasons for Allowance

5. Claims 1-20 are allowed.
6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
 - A. Regarding claim 1, and similarly claim 10, closest art of record Lin et al. (US 6,563,953) and Hayashi (US 5,717,462) discloses a method that set prediction bits, including setting A0 and A2, in parallel. APA (admitted prior art: Fig. 1, and paragraphs 10-16 of the instance application) further discloses, when X0 is equivalent to D0, setting A0 to Y0 [Paragraph 12] but A2 to Y1 only if A0 is also equivalent to Y0 [paragraph 14].

Art Unit: 2624

However, none of the references cited above, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest setting A2 to Y1 IF X0 is equivalent to D0, as required by claim 1.

B. Regarding claim 18, closest art of record Lin et al. (US 6,563,953) and Hayashi (US 5,717,462) in combination discloses an apparatus as recited in claim 1. De Bergh (US 4,496,916) et al. further discloses a circuit that comprises a shift register [Fig. 2, ref. 23], in addition to a comparator and a multiplexer. However, none of the references cited above, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest shifting the shift register and setting the bits in the manner recited in claim 18.

C. Regarding claim 19, and similarly claim 20, closest art of record Lin et al. (US 6,563,953), Hayashi (US 5,717,462) and Ericsson (US 5,001,560) in combination discloses an apparatus as recited in claim 3. Zydek et al. (US 6,012,156) et al. further discloses a circuit that comprises a NOR-gate [Fig. 2, ref. 30], in addition to a comparator and a multiplexer. However, none of the references cited above, alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest using NOR-gate(s) in the manner as recited in the respective claims.

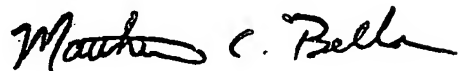
7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Contact Information

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yubin Hung whose telephone number is (571) 272-7451. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 - 4:00. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew C. Bella can be reached on (571) 272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Yubin Hung
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2624
June 4, 2007



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